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Mississippi Notebook

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MISSISSIPPI NOTEBOOK

By **TOM ETHRIDGE**



THAT MIXED MEAL

A number of readers have called or written us to inquire just exactly where that group of Illinois college students dined with Negroes during their visit to Jackson. Frankly, we are unable to say for sure, not having incontrovertible proof.

The same crowd of white students was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, and the Montgomery Advertiser quoted Illinois Prof. Richard Nesmith as saying:

"I am extremely disappointed at the guilty verdicts handed down against me and 19 other persons for attending an interracial luncheon at a colored cafe here." He implied that they had done it elsewhere without being jugged and fined.

Asked by Montgomery's city attorney if they had eaten with Negroes elsewhere in the South, Prof. Nesmith said they had done so in Jackson, Mississippi. He said his group contacted Hodding Carter, Mississippi editor, in Jackson.

"HATE MERCHANTS"

An editorial, "Hate Merchants", published in the last issue of the Mississippi Methodist Advocate by Editor Sam Ashmore, has prompted the following comment by Mary D. Cain in her weekly Summit Sun:

"... The editors, resorting to a method old as sin, turned poison pens upon people who have sought to expose modernism and liberalism in the churches.

"Under attack in the Ashmore editorial were Myers G. Lowman of Circuit Riders, Inc., who has a standing offer to pay \$100 to any person who can prove an error in his documentation of people who are identified with Communism or Communist fronts (no takers Yet!); Edgar Bunday, whose documented record of 'Collectivism in the Churches' remains unchallenged; Billy

James Hargis, noted evangelist. . . . and last but not least, my treasured friend Verne P. Kaub of Madison, Wisconsin, president of the American Council of Christian Laymen and a very wonderful person."

"NO DOCUMENTATION"

Mrs. Cain went on to say: "I am so deeply ashamed that such an editorial could have come from a Mississippi periodical. Mississippi, a part of the Bible Belt, harboring a publication which wildly (and with no documentation) castigates people who are doing most to preserve that Bible today! I blush with shame and offer apology for this grievous affront to friends of long standing.

"The Advocate's editorial was well named—'Hate Merchants'—but all the hate was felt by the editors and not the recipients of their barbs. As one who is fond of the Ashmores despite the fact that we do not see eye to eye on United Nations or its evil offsprings, integration and liberalism, I hate to see them lose their perspective and resort to this type of attack." (End quote from Mrs. Cain's paper.)

LOWMAN SPOKE HERE

The Myers G. Lowman denounced in the Mississippi Methodist Advocate's "Hate Merchants" editorial is the same Myers G. Lowman who appeared in Jackson a short time ago as guest speaker for a statewide meeting of Mississippi Daughters of the American Revolution. Mr. Lowman was given quite a build-up in the press as a patriot and dedicated foe of Communism. He is in national demand as a speaker.

Rev. Billy James Hargis, the evangelist denounced in the Methodist Advocate's "Hate Merchants" editorial, reportedly appeared on a recent network program with Senator James O. Eastland and Rep. John Bell Williams, in a round-robin discussion of the Communist threat